

REMARKS

Claims 73-88 are pending in the Application. These claims are the same text as Claims 50-65 that were included in the preliminary amendment filed on March 23, 2004, the filing date of the instant application. The Examiner has made a restriction requirement, restricting the Claims into two groups, with Group I drawn to Claims 50-59 (new Claims 73-82) being drawn to methods for detection of HIV, and Claims 60-65 (new Claims 83-88) being drawn to kits for the detection of HIV.

To further business interests, Applicants have elected the Claims in Group I, i.e., Claims 73-82. Claims 83-88 are cancelled herein without prejudice in view of the present restriction requirement. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute these claims in one or more divisional Applications.

The Examiner has further required election of single oligonucleotides and sequences of nucleotides in Claims 73 and 75. For business reasons and without acquiescing to the Examiner's arguments, and reserving the right to prosecute the original or similar claims in one or more future applications, in Claim 73, Applicants herein elect an oligonucleotide wherein at least a portion of said oligonucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:167, and in Claim 73, Applicants herein elect a method wherein an oligonucleotide hybridizes to a region of HIV target sequence comprising nucleotides 1853-1855 of SEQ ID NO:158. The claims are amended to cancel without prejudice the unelected subject matter, reserving the right to pursue claims directed to this subject matter in one or more divisional or other applications.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, Applicants encourages the Examiner to call the undersigned collect at (608) 218-6900.

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/Mary Ann D. Brow/

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